(a) Yes, Sir. The Govt, has approved the proposal for the creation of mechanized coal handling facilities at Paradeep in Orissa.

(b) and (c) The revised cost estimated for the project is Rs. 831.11 crores with foreign exchange component of Rs. 149.48 crores. The project is partly funded by the Asian Development Bank and partly through the internal resources of Paradeep Port Trust.

(d) Paradeep Port Trust has already executed major components of the project and it is scheduled to be operational soon.

Performance of SCI

2466. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has been earning profit;

(b) if so, the performance of SCI during last three years;

(c) whether the passenger division of SCI was incurring losses;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the passenger division has made any improvement in 2000-2001; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The performance of Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI) during the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Operating Expenses	2414.50	2520.80	2542.80
Other Income	107.00	61.50	65.20
Total Earnings	2521.50	2582.30	2608.00

1		2	3	4
Operating Expenses		1754.30	1799.40	1908.1
Other Expenses		129.70	175.30	0
Interest & Finance	Charges (Net)	86.50	100.40	150.10
Depreciation		249.80	258.90	72.40
Tax Liability		55.00	47.00	274.80
				41.00
Total Expenses :		2275.30	2381.00	2446.40
Profit after tax		246.20	201.30	161.60

(c) No, Sir. SCI owns two vessels namely m.v. Harshavardhana and m.v. Raraanujam which are operated on behalf of Andaman & Nicobar Administration on a reimbursement basis. Other 14 passenger vessels are owned by Union Territory of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Administration and manned and managed by SCI on payment of remuneration as per the agreement for Operation and Maintenance of the vessels.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Privatisation and Deregulation of Port Sector

2467. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously thinking to privatise and deregulate the Port sector on the lines of the U.K., Canada and Australia;

(b) whether Corporation of Ports have been beneficial to the country's economy, internationally; and

(c) whether it would be beneficial to the Indian economy if Ports are corporatised in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. However, the Government have decided, in principle, to corporatise the Major Ports and have laid down guidelines for privatisation of specific Port facilities in the Major Ports.

(b) and (c) Coporatisation of Ports generally helps achieving